

February 27, 2014

To whom it may concern,

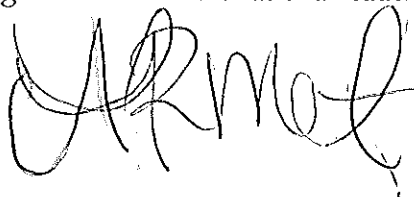
I am a student in Connecticut and I am writing this letter to request that the Connecticut General Assembly immediately pass H.B. No. 5221 to reform juvenile justice and sentencing. It is immoral, unwise, and now unconstitutional for Connecticut to allow juveniles to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for crimes committed under the age of 18, and it is time for Connecticut to change these outdated laws.

Juvenile sentencing in Connecticut under current law fails to acknowledge the "mitigating qualities of youth" that the Supreme Court has ruled we must consider in sentencing children. These qualities include greater capacities for self-improvement and underdeveloped brains. Furthermore, many of the juveniles who have gone through the juvenile justice system have been subjected to poverty, violence, and peer pressure. This socioeconomic element is only compounded by the fact that minorities are overrepresented in Connecticut's prisons and juvenile detention centers with 92% of juvenile offenders serving 50 or more years identifying as African American or Hispanic.

The Connecticut Sentencing Commission's recommended legislation would promote the change we need in juvenile sentencing. The proposal prohibits mandatory life sentences without parole for juvenile offenders. Passing this bill would therefore bring Connecticut into compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling, but more importantly, it's the right thing to do, providing overdue recognition of juvenile offenders' right to a second chance. Even if some offenders shouldn't receive parole, it is critical that juveniles receive special consideration within our justice system, which is why they should all at least be eligible for a parole hearing.

As a forward-looking state, Connecticut should be a national trailblazer and show the rest of the nation the many benefits of improved laws concerning juvenile justice. The revision of our existing laws can prove that Connecticut understands the nuances and careful attention needed in juvenile sentencing efforts. Our state needs to rededicate itself to the ideals of juvenile justice. By doing this, we once again can become a national leader and stand at the forefront of American justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stiles", written over a horizontal line.

Address:

Stiles

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely, Christopher Alrood



Address: P.O. Box 202805

New Haven, Ct, 06520

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address:

Yale University  
New Haven, CT 06521

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Sincerely,   
Aleksandra Zerkowicz

Address: Berkeley '17  
Newtown, CT

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Sincerely,



Address:

21

New Haven CT, 06520

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Sincerely,

*Nikhil N. N. N. N.*

Address:

*Ezra Stiles College  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT*

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address:

PO Box 209133  
New Haven, CT 06520

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Sincerely,

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Address:



February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

  
Tessa Ida

Address:

Stiles College New Haven CT

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address:

PO Box 203 610  
New Haven, CT  
06510

February 27, 2014

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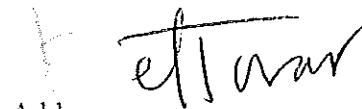
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Sincerely,



Address:

Stiles College

302 York St.

New Haven, CT 06511

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address:

19 Tower Place  
New Haven, CT 06511

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

Jacob Allen

Address:

P.O. Box 206585  
New Haven, CT 06520

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

*Nonna Lopez*

Address:

18 Tower Parkway  
New Haven CT  
06520

USA

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,

*Nicholas Lee*

Address:

*19 Turner Parkway, New Haven, CT 06511*

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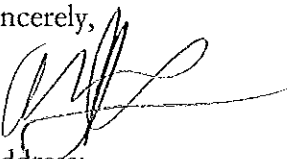
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Sincerely,



Address:

Akshay Nathan  
6231 Volany Way  
San Jose, CA  
95129



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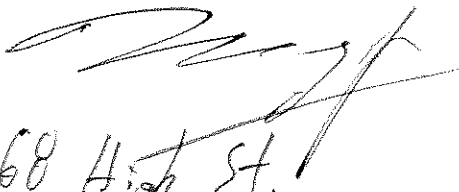
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Address: 68 High St.  
New Haven, CT

February 27, 2014

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I am a student in Connecticut and I am writing this letter to request that the Connecticut General Assembly immediately pass H.B. No. 5221 to reform juvenile justice and sentencing. It is immoral, unwise, and now unconstitutional for Connecticut to allow juveniles to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for crimes committed under the age of 18, and it is time for Connecticut to change these outdated laws.

Juvenile sentencing in Connecticut under current law fails to acknowledge the "mitigating qualities of youth" that the Supreme Court has ruled we must consider in sentencing children. These qualities include greater capacities for self-improvement and underdeveloped brains. Furthermore, many of the juveniles who have gone through the juvenile justice system have been subjected to poverty, violence, and peer pressure. This socioeconomic element is only compounded by the fact that minorities are overrepresented in Connecticut's prisons and juvenile detention centers with 92% of juvenile offenders serving 50 or more years identifying as African American or Hispanic.

The Connecticut Sentencing Commission's recommended legislation would promote the change we need in juvenile sentencing. The proposal prohibits mandatory life sentences without parole for juvenile offenders. Passing this bill would therefore bring Connecticut into compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling, but more importantly, it's the right thing to do, providing overdue recognition of juvenile offenders' right to a second chance. Even if some offenders shouldn't receive parole, it is critical that juveniles receive special consideration within our justice system, which is why they should all at least be eligible for a parole hearing.

As a forward-looking state, Connecticut should be a national trailblazer and show the rest of the nation the many benefits of improved laws concerning juvenile justice. The revision of our existing laws can prove that Connecticut understands the nuances and careful attention needed in juvenile sentencing efforts. Our state needs to rededicate itself to the ideals of juvenile justice. By doing this, we once again can become a national leader and stand at the forefront of American justice.

Sincerely,



Address:

68 High Street, New Haven, CT  
06520

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Sincerely,



Address:

65 High Street  
New Haven CT 06511

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Sincerely,

*Warren Bahler*

Address:

*68 High Street.  
New Haven CT 06511*

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Sincerely,

Taylor Dalton

Address:

PO Box 202369  
New Haven CT 06520

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Sincerely,

Filip Babilievsky

Address:

68 High Street New Haven CT

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. J.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Address:

68 HIGH ST  
New Haven CT 06511

February 27, 2014

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Sincerely,



Address:

PO Box 206618  
New Haven CT 06520

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Sincerely,

*Jason Green*

Address:

*PO Box 201480  
Elm Street LCP*

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Rhaya Willis

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261 Park St

New Haven CT 06511

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Address:

Shiles College, New Haven, CT